



CPEC

California Postsecondary Education Commission
770 L Street, Suite 1160, Sacramento, California 95814

News Release

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**EMBARGOED UNTIL
DECEMBER 9, 2008 AT NOON**

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9:30 a.m. — Presentation of University Eligibility Study

10:30 a.m. — University of California President Mark Yudof

Following Yudof presentation — Opportunity for press questions on the University Eligibility Study

One Third of State's Public High School Graduates now Eligible for CSU

*Number of students eligible for UC, CSU up 20 percent amidst budget reductions,
enrollment cuts*

SACRAMENTO — December 9, 2008 — The California Postsecondary Education Commission released its University Eligibility Study. The study shows that 13.4 percent of the public high school graduating class of 2007 was eligible for admission to the University of California, and 32.7 percent to the California State University.

Eligibility studies are jointly conducted by the Commission, UC, and CSU roughly every four years. They are used by the university systems and policymakers to see if admission requirements are consistent with the state's 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education. The Master Plan recommends that CSU take freshmen from the top 33.3 percent of graduates and UC from the top 12.5 percent.

The study was conducted by contacting public high schools and asking them to provide transcripts for their 2007 graduating class. UC and CSU admission staff reviewed each transcript to see if the courses, grades and test scores would make a student eligible for admission. Nearly 72,000 transcripts were reviewed from 158 public high schools.

Following a 10:30 a.m. presentation by UC President Mark Yudof on initiatives he is promoting for UC, the Commission will break for press questions on the eligibility study.

The release of the Eligibility Study coincides with budget reductions and enrollment cuts at UC and CSU. UC is facing substantial budget cuts, while CSU, also facing substantial reductions, has confirmed it will cut enrollments by 10,000.

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Eligibility Rates

The Commission's previous study was for the class of 2003. Since then, eligibility for UC has fallen slightly, while CSU eligibility has increased sharply, bringing both figures closer to those recommended in the Master Plan.

The CSU eligibility rate was down in 2003, which was the first year to require additional years of history and lab science. Schools have since adjusted course offerings, and the CSU eligibility rate is again close to the Master Plan recommendation. This year's results shows the eligibility gap has narrowed slightly between ethnic/racial groups, but eligibility rates for Blacks and Latinos are still below the rates for Asians and Whites.

The UC eligibility rate for Whites decreased from 16.2 percent in 2003 to 14.6 percent in 2007. The rate for Asians decreased from 31.4 percent to 29.4 percent, while the rates for Latinos and Blacks were nearly unchanged: 6.5 percent in 2003 and 6.9 percent in 2007 for Latinos; 6.2 percent in 2003 and 6.3 percent in 2007 for Blacks.

For CSU, the rate for Blacks, Whites and Latinos increased from 2003 to 2007. For Blacks, the rate increased from 18.6 percent in 2003 to 24.0 percent in 2007; Latinos from 16.0 percent to 22.5 percent; and Whites from 34.3 percent to 37.1 percent.

"The gap between ethnic and racial groups appears to be closing, but Blacks and Latinos still lag. We still need to focus on getting students from all backgrounds qualified for universities," Commission Chair Olivia Singh said, "With the high demand for educated and skilled labor in California, it's important that high school graduates from every race and income level can get on the university track."

The Eligibility Pool

A total of 350,700 students graduated from California public comprehensive, continuation, and alternative high schools in 2007. Of these, an estimated 46,400 were eligible for UC and 114,400 were eligible for CSU. This is a 20 percent increase from the number of students in the class of 2003 who were eligible for CSU.

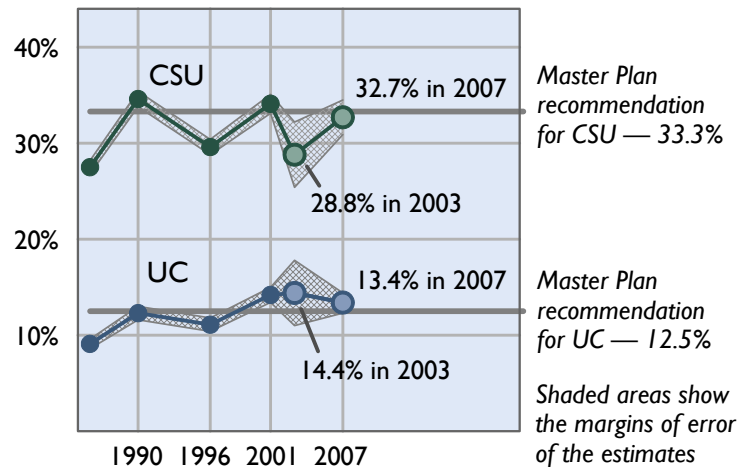
Eligibility for Latinos, the state's fastest-growing ethnic group, has increased sharply. The number of Latinos eligible for CSU is up by 55 percent from 2003. However, the gender gap continues to be an issue, as eligibility rates for males continue to be lower than for females. Eligibility for males is about 70 percent of eligibility for females, and this gap is even wider for Blacks and Latinos.

"Our public higher education systems face a growing challenge of accommodating more students with reduced state funding. We must look at new ways of doing business if we are to give all qualified students the opportunity for a university education," said Commission Executive Director Murray J. Haberman.

Percent of California High School Graduates Eligible for UC and CSU

		2003	2007
University of California	All graduates	14.4%	13.4%
	Male	12.6	11.2
	Female	16.2	15.3
	Asian	31.4	29.4
	White	16.2	14.6
	Latino	6.5	6.9
	Black	6.2	6.3
California State University	All graduates	28.8%	32.7%
	Male	24.0	27.3
	Female	33.3	37.6
	White	34.3	37.1
	Asian	47.5	50.9
	Latino	16.0	22.5
	Black	18.6	24.0

Eligibility Rates 1983–2007



Estimates from Commission studies, 1983–2007

The public is welcome to attend the December 9–10, 2008 Commission meeting. The agenda is available at www.cpec.ca.gov/agendas/agnd0812.asp. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, and 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, at 770 L Street, Suite 1160, Sacramento. Audio of the public meeting will be streamed live at the Commission's Web site, www.cpec.ca.gov. Recordings of this and previous meetings are presented as streaming audio, also accessible from www.cpec.ca.gov.

The full report *University Eligibility Study for the Class of 2007* will be available for download as a PDF from the Commission's web site on Tuesday, December 9 at noon.

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The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission's primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.